

OPERATIONS GROUP FILE

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M.C. - General →

27 August 1980

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, Operations Group
FROM: Chief, Field Coverage Staff
SUBJECT: Gulf Bureau Coverage/
Staffing Update

1. Herewith updated projections of Gulf Bureau coverage and staffing per your request. Included below are current and projected Gulf Bureau coverage given current staffing, projected enhanced coverage as staff expands and matures, and additional or alternative coverage available if required language capabilities are found. The attachment provides coverage breakdowns by language and source.

Persian

[] trainee)

(trainee: also has Dari/Pashto)

(trainee; expected to EOD September; also has Urdu).

2. Gulf Bureau's Persian-language coverage as of 15 August. (not including current ad hoc arrangements to accommodate [] return to Nicosia) totaled 40 hours per week, or about 8 hours per day for a 5-day week (Friday through Wednesday). Coverage consisted of the clandestines NVOI, Free Voice of Iran and Radio Iran; Ahvaz and Shiraz domestic; Tehran and Abadan television; and a little over 2 hours daily of Moscow and Beijing Persian. This coverage is not now and is not expected to be highly productive (total production for June -- the only production report available -- was a little over 30,000 words).

3. With the loss of [] it is not expected that Gulf Bureau will undertake additional Persian-language coverage for the foreseeable future. There may, in fact, have to be some reductions until a third monitor is recruited and hired and the

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present staff is fully trained. It would be useful in the interim for Nicosia Bureau to assume some Persian-language coverage as long as [] is available (until her contract expires in December). FCS will be coordinating with the three bureaus on coverage arrangements over the next 3 or 4 months

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4. As Gulf's projected 3-and-a-half-person Persian staff matures, additional coverage will be available. Iran probably will remain first priority for expanded coverage, including providing reliable backstop of the Tehran Domestic Service from the various shortwave and mediumwave outlets available to the bureau and broadening coverage of Iranian regional stations. The latter effort will require a thorough sampling and periodic checks of audible regional stations to determine those meriting coverage. Technical efforts also should continue to improve reception of Tehran and Abadan domestic television programming. The bureau may also have better access to some Iranian publications.

5. It is expected that Gulf will eventually move to a 13 or 14-shift per week operation at which time coverage adjustments should be possible to reduce split coverage of various sources between Gulf and Tel Aviv bureaus. The precise nature of these adjustments should be worked out between the two bureaus at that time. Split coverage currently includes NVOI, Free Voice of Iran, Radio Iran and Moscow Persian.

6. Additional lower-priority Persian-language coverage is available to Gulf Bureau if resources allow. Three Soviet regional stations -- Baku, Tashkent and Dushanbe -- carry international service programming in Persian as do Karachi and Delhi; Kuwait broadcasts domestic service programming in Persian. None of these sources should require more than sample coverage.

Arabic

[] (experienced)

(trainee)

(trainee)

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7. Gulf's Arabic-language coverage as of 15 August totaled a little over 11 hours per week (2.25 hours daily) of regular voice coverage, a little over 4 hours per week (50 minutes daily) of irregular voice coverage, and three publications (two daily, one weekly). Coverage consisted of Kabul International Arabic, Abadan NIOC and Ahvaz Domestic Service (regular); Baghdad, Ra's al-Khayman and Abu Dhabi domestic services (irregular); two Manama and one Kuwait publications. None of this coverage thus far has provided more than limited productivity. The bureau also covers other Arabic sources on an ad hoc basis (Gulf State and Saudi Arabian domestic radios and publications).

8. Gulf Bureau would appear to have sufficient manpower to assume additional regular Arabic coverage. If the bureau confirms this to be the case, it should begin sampling Gulf State domestic services and publications in Arabic and English in order to undertake regular representative coverage from Oman, the UAE, Qatar and Bahrain. This coverage (a minimum of one cast per day per country) is not expected to be very productive. A good portion of Gulf State coverage is now provided by press agency sources (EMIRATES NEWS AGENCY, GULF NEWS AGENCY and QATARI NEWS AGENCY taken by Jordan Bureau and the OMAN NEWS AGENCY carried on MENA and taken at Nicosia).

9. As Gulf's Arabic monitor staff matures over the next year or so, and after the bureau goes to a 7-day operation, consideration should be given to assuming full coverage responsibility for the Gulf States, taking press agency coverage from Jordan Bureau and possibly Nicosia. (Jordan Bureau estimates that coverage of the GULF, EMIRATES and QATAR news agencies' file, which is transmitted 16 hours daily -- 0500-2100 GMT -- requires 3 monitor manhours and 1 editor manhour daily. Coverage of the OMAN NEWS AGENCY carried on MENA may not be possible unless it can be determined that ONA items are carried by MENA on a regular schedule.) A second option would be for Gulf to assume coverage of the Yemeni domestic services and clandestines from Jordan Bureau and EAU. Gulf should have slightly better overall reception of these stations, although this would have to be confirmed before coverage changes were made. It is doubtful that Gulf's three-man Arabic staff could assume both Gulf State and Yemeni coverage, even in the long run. It would be preferable in that case for the bureau to assume the Gulf State coverage "package" and backstop on Yemeni coverage as required.

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10. Gulf Bureau can provide backstop capability for a good deal of Middle East Arabic coverage including Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Baghdad domestic services. Other Arabic coverage should also be available if desired from Soviet regional international services (Baku and Tashkent) and Kabul International Service.

Dari/Pashto

☐ (trainee; also has Persian)

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11. Gulf Bureau currently has no Dari/Pashto coverage responsibility. Originally, the bureau was to have at least a backstop role in Kabul Domestic Service coverage. However, as long as the BNC can maintain coverage of this service from the "feeder circuit" to Soviet transmitters and as long as the Islamabad Unit is operating, Gulf should not have to become involved. Should either of these coverage sources be lost, however, Gulf probably will have to play at least a backstop role. It is important, therefore, that the bureau's sole Dari/Pashto monitor be provided with regular coverage in these languages to maintain his proficiency.

12. The bureau has several coverage options available, none of them particularly high-level. Coverage of Moscow Dari/Pashto is possible, either in a split coverage arrangement or as a backstop to Tel Aviv Bureau. (Coverage of this service should be considered in arranging Persian-language coverage between the two bureaus.) Dushanbe International Service Dari and Delhi International Dari/Pashto are also possible coverage sources, although they probably will require no more than periodic sampling.

Urdu

☐ Mrs.) (trainee)
☐ Mr.) (trainee: part-time, 30 hrs per pay period.)
(expected to EOD in September; also has Persian)

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13. Gulf Bureau is overstaffed in Urdu language capability. As noted in previous projections, current coverage -- Kabul in Urdu to South Asia 2 hours daily (currently unmonitorable) -- and projected coverage -- Zahedan Domestic Urdu and Tashkent and Tehran International Urdu -- should require no more than one full-time monitor. A second monitor will, of course, insure full real-time coverage when the bureau goes to a 7-day per week operation and during periods of leave (although this may not be necessary and, with the two monitors being married, it might be assumed they would desire annual leave at the same time). A second monitor also will permit the bureau to assume some Urdu coverage from Bangkok Bureau (Moscow and Beijing casts are recommended) if this is deemed necessary.

Georgian

(no language capability on board)

14. Projected Georgian-language coverage -- Tbilisi Domestic Service "First" and "Second" programs (both only partially monitorable) -- should require less than one full monitor. This assumes, of course, that 7-day real-time coverage is not required.

Armenian

(no language capability on board)

15. Projected Armenian-language coverage at Gulf -- Yerevan Domestic and International services and Baku Domestic Service -- should require no more than one monitor; again, assuming 7-day real-time coverage is not required.

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Azerbaijani

(no language capability on board)

16. Projected Azerbaijani coverage at Gulf includes Baku and Yerevan domestic and international services, Iranian regional stations and NVOI (backstop Tel Aviv and full after Suleyman retires). This coverage should require no more than one full-time monitor. There may, however, be variations in the Soviet and Iranian dialects.

Russian

(no language capability on board)

17. Gulf Bureau should have at least one monitor (and preferably two) with Russian-language capability. Hopefully, a monitor(s) can be found with dual capability in Russian and one of the required Soviet vernaculars listed above. Primary coverage will be Soviet regional domestic services -- Yerevan, Baku, Tbilisi, Khanty Mansiysk, Tyumen, Ufa and Omsk-- but other coverage, particularly international service broadcasts from countries in the area (Iran, Syria, Iraq, Egypt), might also be available.

Kurdish

(no language capability on board)

18. Kurdish-language coverage available to Gulf Bureau should include Baghdad Domestic Service, Tehran Domestic Service, Iranian regional stations and Yerevan International Service. Several of these sources have been sampled; none are expected to provide more than limited productivity. Coverage should require no more than one monitor; however, at least three dialects are involved, and it will be difficult to find one monitor who can handle all three. Although it would be preferable that Kurdish-language coverage be taken and processed at Gulf Bureau, the delay involved in recording and mailing tapes to other bureaus where the language capability may be available should not

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seriously affect the value of the material. It should be confirmed that the coverage is worth the expense, however. Jordan Bureau's Kurdish monitor has Bahdinani and Surani dialect capability (although translations are into Arabic and then into English). Kurdish capability may also be available in London.

English

19. Available English-language coverage at Gulf is listed in the attachment. It's assumed that any English-language coverage required will be assigned to the monitors best equipped to take it.

Turkmen, Baluchi, Uzbek

(no language capability on board)

20. These language capabilities fall into the category of "useful but not required" at Gulf Bureau. Almost all of the coverage in these languages is projected to be taken at Islamabad. (Gulf can cover Zahedan Baluchi as well as Islamabad and Tashkent International Uzbek slightly better than Islamabad.) Gulf will have a smattering of Turkmen coverage not available at Islamabad -- Gorgan Domestic and Baghdad Domestic. It is doubtful that any of this coverage would justify a monitor at Gulf without capability in another required language.

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